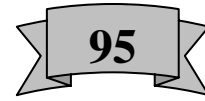




Community Unit School District 95
School Health Services



Lake Zurich High School
 Phone 847-438-5155
 Nurse Fax 847-540-4190

Middle School South
 Phone 847-540-7070
 Fax 847-540-9438

Middle School North
 Phone 847-719-3600
 Fax 847-719-3620

Charles Quentin
 PHONE 847-438-2420
 FAX 847-438-4766

Isaac Fox
 847-540-7020
 847-540-7032

Mav Whitney
 847-438-2351
 847-438-2696

Sarah Adams
 847-438-5986
 847-438-7740

Spencer Loomis
 847-719-3300
 847-719-3320

Seth Paine
 847-438-2163
 847-438-2528

DATE: May 7, 2009
 TO: Parents/Guardians, Staff
 SUBJECT: Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

A case of pertussis, also called “whooping cough” has been reported in our District. Pertussis is caused by bacteria infecting the mouth, nose and throat. It is spread through the air by coughing.

Pertussis symptoms appear 5 to 21 days after infection. Usually only close contacts of students with Pertussis become infected. Pertussis **may** begin with cold-like symptoms (i.e., sneezing/runny nose) with a cough that gradually becomes worse. Others may develop the cough without any cold symptoms. **Those with Pertussis are more contagious during the beginning, cold-like stage and the first 2 weeks after cough onset.** After 1 to 2 weeks, the cough usually occurs in strong “coughing fits”. In very young children this is often followed by a whooping noise as they try to catch their breath (rare in older children). Coughing fits may produce gagging or vomiting. **Between coughing fits the person appears well.** There is generally no fever and coughing can last six weeks or longer. Adults, teens and vaccinated children often have milder symptoms that may be confused with bronchitis or asthma. **Please observe your child for the above symptoms for the next 3 weeks.**

If your child comes down with cold symptoms and a cough, **talk to your child’s doctor as soon as possible.** Tell the doctor that pertussis has been reported in your child’s school and report possible Pertussis infections to the school nurse. If your child was seen by a medical provider, bring a **doctor’s note back to school.** If the doctor suspects Pertussis, **please keep your child at home for the first 5 days of antibiotics or until test results are known.** The most accurate test is the nasopharyngeal swab. **Antibiotics given early may minimize severe symptoms and prevent the spread of the disease.**

In Illinois, Pertussis vaccine is either given as DPT or Dtap until seven years of age. Vaccine protection begins to fade in older children. If you have children less than 7 years old who have not been completely vaccinated for pertussis (particularly babies under one year of age), talk to your child’s doctor about the benefit of vaccination. Make sure children receive their pertussis (**Dtap**) **booster** as soon as they **turn 4 years old.** Babies under one year of age and unvaccinated small children are more likely to have severe illness from Pertussis. When possible, babies should be kept away from people with a cough. **Any baby with a coughing illness should be seen by their doctor as soon as possible.**

A new Pertussis Booster shot is now available for children over 10 years old and adults. Two companies have recently begun making this booster under the brand names of “Boostrix” and “Adacel”. **LCHD strongly recommends that all adolescents receive the new Tdap vaccine in place of the required Td for high school entrance.** Most pediatricians in the County are already administering the booster vaccine. A five-year interval between the last Dtap or Td is encouraged to reduce risk of adverse reactions. **Please discuss the need for a Pertussis booster for your child with your medical provider.**

Call your child’s school health office if you have any questions. You can contact the Lake County Health Department at 847-377-8130 or Andrea Bonkowski, RN, ILSN, District 95 school nurse at 847-540-2785.

